

500/100

Urban District Council

St. Mary

of

Northampton

Newbiggin-by-the-Sea



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1957

4

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year, 1957.

The vital statistics are less satisfactory than in 1956. The standard birth rate is practically unchanged and is slightly higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales. The still-birth rate, death rate, and infantile mortality rate are all considerably higher than in 1956.

The total number of deaths increased from 99 in 1956 to 124 in 1957, this being largely due to an increase of 7 in the deaths attributed to malignant neoplasms, of 8 in deaths due to coronary disease and of 5 in deaths due to congenital malformations. The number of infant deaths was 8, which is exactly double the number who died in 1956.

Notifiable infectious diseases, apart from Measles of which there was an epidemic in the spring months, were few in number.

There was no major scheme or event of outstanding importance on which to comment but the routine work of the Health Department continued to be carried out, as is shown in the body of the report.

In conclusion I wish to thank Councillors for their continuing support and interest and the Public Health Inspector for his work.

I am, also, grateful to other officials of the Council for the help and co-operation they have so readily given whenever it was requested.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	HAROLD S. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Urban District Council	Council Offices, Front Street, Newbiggin.
Telephone	Newbiggin 350.
Offices of the Medical Officer of Health	146 Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287.
Residence of the Medical Officer of Health ...	36, Churchburn Drive, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 519.
Residence of the Assistant Medical Officer	21, Kendor Grove, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 647.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area and boundaries of the Urban District remained unchanged, but the Registrar-General's estimate of the population shows an increase of 50 on the estimate for 1956.

The main industry is, still coalmining.

The caravan site on the moor is well equipped and well maintained and is very fully occupied during the summer months. All caravans must be removed at the end of the season.

Area in Acres	1,841
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1957	10,060
Rateable Value	£68,227
One Penny Rate produces	£262
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957)	3,029

VITAL STATISTICS

(Figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	178	84	94
Illegitimate	3	2	1
	<hr/> 181	<hr/> 86	<hr/> 95

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.99	(16.6)
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 0.99)	17.81	

Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	1	3
Rate per 1,000 of the total (Live and Still) births		21.62	(22.6)
Rate per 1,000 of the total population		0.397	

DEATHS

Total—124. Male—72. Female—52.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	12.33	(12.2)
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.26) ...	15.54	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil	

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

All infants per 1,000 live births	44.19	(25.0)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.94	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil	

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	5	4	1

The Registrar General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	7
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	16	3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	—
20. Other Heart Diseases	14	18
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	—	2
22. Influenza	1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	3	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	5	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	1
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34. All other Accidents	3	1
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 52

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	8	5	3

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AT NEWBIGGIN

	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	56	45.16
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	18	14.52
Malignant Neoplasms	22	17.74
	<u>96</u>	<u>77.42</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1957

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 mths	4 - 6 mths	7 - 9 mths	10 - 12 mths	Total under 1 year
Congenital Abnormality	1	--	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Bronchopneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Strangulated Hernia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	4	1	—	—	—	5	1	1	—	1	8

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimen sent by.	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	8	^{not} available
General Practitioner	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	1	—
General Practitioner	Swabs for Vincent's Organisms	1	32
General Practitioner	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	25	29
Medical Officer of Health	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	1	1
General Practitioner	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	—	32
General Practitioner	Swabs for Staphylococci	7	26
Medical Officer of Health	Swabs for Staphylococci	5	7
General Practitioner	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms ...	—	9
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms ...	—	46
Medical Officer of Health	Specimens of food for Coagulase positive Staphylococci	5	1

8 Sensitivity Tests were carried out.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council with ambulances stationed at Ashington. At North Seaton Colliery the Miners' Welfare Committee continues to run its own ambulance service, but any North Seaton resident not entitled to this service can obtain the use of a County Council ambulance when necessary.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council and nurses are stationed as follows:

Newbiggin	3
North Seaton	1

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child welfare Centre at Jubilee Terrace and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

SECTION C

Water Supply.

Tynemouth Corporation supplies the water for the whole of the district with the exception of North Seaton Village, where 17 houses and one farm still receive water from North Seaton Colliery.

The water is chlorinated, and is of an excellent standard of purity. The supply has been adequate throughout the year, and has averaged 24.6 gallons, per head per day.

2,181 of the occupied houses in the district or approximately 72% of the total have a fixed bath and only 20 houses are without an internal water supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

With the exception of a certain amount of flooding in the lower portion of the District, after high tides coupled with exceptionally heavy rain, the sewers have functioned satisfactorily.

The pipe discharging on to the beach still gives cause for alarm, particularly when it is realised that not only does it take drainage from Woodhorn Village, but also receives the storm-water overflows of the various main sewers in the area: It is hoped that when the groynes are built on the beach, one can be utilised as a pipe to discharge this water below low-water mark.

Public Conveniences.

The four conveniences, situated at Bridge Street, Prospect Place, Milburn Park and the Centre Promenade, are periodically inspected, and are well maintained. Serious complaints have been received, however, regarding the condition of the Prospect Place Ladies' Toilets, and the only possible solution here would be the erection of new toilets, large enough to serve the large influx of visitors who arrive during the summer. If this were done, and an attendant appointed to be on duty while the toilets were open, one of the chief causes of complaint in Newbiggin would be obviated.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal.

No complaints were received during the year regarding the twice weekly collection of household refuse. The two refuse tips in the area are well maintained and regularly inspected.

The streets, promenade, foreshore and open spaces under the control of the council are maintained in a clean condition, but the portion of the moor used by the majority of holiday-makers for picnics was found on many occasions to be in a disgraceful condition. The freeholders, who are the owners of this land, will have to be made to realise that it is their responsibility to see that no nuisance or injury is caused by the broken bottles, empty tins, waste food and litter which accumulates.

Shops and Food Premises.

The general standard of hygiene of these is excellent. A strict control is exercised and the main problem now appears to be the education of staffs in the hygienic use of machines such as cooked-meat slicers, and the necessity for absolute cleanliness at all times.

Eradication of Vermin.

One complaint was received during the year of an infestation of bed-bugs. This was a very minor case, and was treated successfully.

Treatment against cockroaches was carried out in 9 cases.

Schools.

The six schools and their canteens were inspected at intervals during the year, and were all found to be in first-class condition. All the schools have main water supplies and water closets.

Rodent Control.

The following table gives a summary of the activities during the year:

	Local Authority	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
		Dwelling Houses	Business	Agricultural
No. of Properties	10	3029	302	17
No. of Inspections as a result of:				
Complaint	—	9	7	—
Survey under the Act	10	72	118	6
Otherwise	—	186	124	5
No. of Infestations	2	19	11	—
No. of properties treated by the Local Authority	2	19	11	—

Camping Sites.

The caravan site at Newbiggin Moor continues to be maintained in an excellent condition. Water supplies, toilets and washing facilities are adequate and are kept in an excellent state of cleanliness. Each caravan is inspected and approved before being used for letting, and any found defective are removed from the site by the operator.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections were made of the 25 factories in the area. The following tables give details of the inspections made during the year and the defects found:

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	10	11	—	—
ii Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	24	—	—
iii Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	9	—	—
Total	25	44	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

SECTION D

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1957.

New houses completed during the year:

By Local Authority	30
By other bodies or persons	2

Closing and Demolition.

	No. of houses.
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	---
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	9
3. Houses closed, not demolished	—
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	—

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

1. By informal action	44
2. By owners, following statutory notice	—
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	—
4. Demolition orders revoked after reconstruction	—
5. Houses in Clearance Areas patched for temporary accommodation	—

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

	No. of separate houses
1. Applications submitted to local authority during year	19
2. Applications rejected	—
3. Applications approved	19
4. Approximate average grant per house	£112. 17. 0.
5. Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	215

Local Authority Houses.

1. Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,113
2. Number of temporary dwellings included in the above	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ending 31st December, 1957.

	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING						
Structural Defects	31	24	30	—	—	—
Defective Food Store	2	2	2	—	—	—
Dampness	27	24	27	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	25	25	25	—	—	—
DRAINAGE						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	25	25	25	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	18	18	18	—	—	—
GENERAL						
Food Premises	11	11	11	—	—	—
Dairies	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	18	4	18	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	3	3	3	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins	62	62	62	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	2	2	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	199	175	197	—	—	—

The following table gives a summary of the work effected.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences.			
Privy Ashpits and privies abolished or repaired	—	—	—
Pail Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water closets provided	2	—	2
Sanitary bins provided	4	—	4
Sanitary bins renewed	58	—	58
Drainage.			
New drains constructed	54	—	54
Drains repaired and reconstructed	25	—	25
Additional gullies provided	14	—	14
Old gullies replaced	18	—	18
Scullery sinks provided	2	—	2
Scullery waste pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	4	—	4

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

Number of Registered Dairies	2
Number of Registered Distributors	14

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughtering is carried out at two abattoirs at Newbiggin. The total animals killed during the year was as follows:

Bovines—723. Calves—24. Sheep and Lambs—1873. Pigs—496.

Condemnations during the year were: 6 bovine lungs, 1 bovine head and tongue and 2 pig heads for Tuberculosis. 2 bovine lungs for pneumonia, and 187 lbs. beef for bruising.

Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Canned Goods (including meat, fruit, fish, milk and vegetables)—243 tins.

Sausage, bacon and cooked ham—94 lbs.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS**

Disease	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning....	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Measles	—	20	144	138	185	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	488	—
Whooping Cough	—	4	4	2	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—

Measles.

After the absence of Measles from the district in 1956 an epidemic was to be expected in 1957. It began in March, reached its peak in April (183 cases) and May (239 cases) and thereafter abated and then finally stopped at the end of June. In all 488 cases were notified but there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

There were 20 cases of Whooping Cough notified. No deaths were attributed to this disease. During 1957, 169 children received prophylactic injections against Whooping Cough.

Other Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

These showed a remarkably low incidence and require no comment except to say that the four cases of food poisoning occurred as part of an outbreak due to infected food at a dinner consumed at a school in another area. The infecting organism was *Cl. Welchii*.

Diphtheria.

This disease has not been seen in Newbiggin since 1950 and it has caused no deaths during the past 10 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 163 pre-school and 38 school children completed a course of primary immunisation and 95 pre-school and 319 school children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1957 it was estimated that the immunity indices, i.e. the percentage of children who had received prophylactic treatment during the previous five years were as follows:

34.76 of children under 1 year.

85.23 of children aged 1 - 4 years.

86.33 of children aged 5 - 14 years.

82.38 of all children under the age of 15 years.

These figures are extremely satisfactory and particularly so in the younger age groups where protection is so very important. In addition to the above 398 children had completed a course of treatment at some time prior to 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1957.

Age Groups				NEW CASES					DEATHS				
				Resp.		Non-Resp.			Resp.		Non-Resp.		
				M	F	M	F	Total	M	F	M	F	Total
Under 1 year	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	....	....	....	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	....	....	....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	....	....	....	2	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—

Four new cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1957, a decrease of 3 on the number for the previous year. One case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified and no death was attributed to any form of the disease.

Case Rate of notified Tuberculosis 0.398 per 1,000 (0.699)

Case Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis 0.298 per 1,000 (0.699)

Case Rate of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis 0.099 per 1,000 (Nil)

Death Rate from Tuberculosis Nil (Nil)

The figures in brackets are the corresponding rates for 1956.

Death Rate in England and Wales in 1957 0.095 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1957

The following table shows the deaths, in age groups, resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites.

Site	MALES						FEMALES					
	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Rectum	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Hypopharynx	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lung....	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prostate	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Stomach	—	2	—	2	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Carcinomatosis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lymphatic System....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1	3	2	3	2	11	1	2	5	1	2	11

In 1957 the number of males dying from this cause was 11 and the number of females was also 11. The corresponding figures for 1956 were 5 and 10 respectively.

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Newbiggin	0.198 per 1,000 population
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.426 per 1,000 population

Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin	1.988 per 1,000 population
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.668 per 1,000 population

Malignant Neoplasms of all sites.

Total Death Rate in Newbiggin	2.187 per 1,000 population
Total Death Rate in England and Wales	2.094 per 1,000 population

